

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 750
By Dunn

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Thomas Lynn Duff of Karns.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Mr. Thomas Lynn Duff, longtime Knox County Schools Administrator; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Duff was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a former resident of Lenoir City, Mr. Duff was a highly respected member of the Karns community who was well known not only for lending a helping hand to those in need, but also for his ample use of sports analogies, a habit he picked up as a basketball coach during his first ten years in education; and

WHEREAS, this school year at Karns Middle School would have marked his fortieth year as an educator. Mr. Duff started his illustrious career as a teacher and coach for Lenoir City Schools in 1964, beginning at Lenoir City High School and continuing at West High School and Central High School; and

WHEREAS, he served most recently as principal of Karns Middle School, following his tenure as an able and respected principal at Powell Middle School, Brownlow Elementary School, and Adrian Burnette Elementary School and as the assistant principal of Gresham Middle School; and

WHEREAS, a wonderful, caring person, Mr. Duff was respected and admired by all who knew him, including not only his friends and neighbors, but also his students and their parents, his faculty and staff, and his fellow administrators; and

WHEREAS, his students fondly remember how he and the Karns Middle School assistant principal, Gary Critselous, dressed up as women because the pupils met their coupon book sales goal, and also how his long legs hung out of the go-kart he raced against the top-selling student in another fund-raising stunt; and

WHEREAS, having touched the lives of many people, Tom Duff cherished the relationships he shared with his family, friends, students, and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, known for the contrast between his intimidating size of 6-foot-4 and his big heart, his great sense of humor, his warm concern for everyone around him, and a commitment to fairness, Mr. Duff was succinctly described by his best friend, Gary Mahoney, in the statement, "Your problem was his problem. You couldn't begin to count the lives he made better. He always loved to see someone else do well"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Duff was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Tom Duff enjoyed the loving companionship of his adoring wife of 37 years, Mary Margaret McAmis Duff, and the affectionate devotion of their son, Tim; a red Dachshund named Maggie also held a very special part in Tom's life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tom Duff leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Mr. Thomas Lynn Duff, of Karns, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, his loving compassion toward his pupils, staff, and colleagues, and for his many selfless contributions to his community and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Duff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.